

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

In ..... | Application No  
PCT/IB2005/050872

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 7 G01R33/421

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 G01R

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, INSPEC, COMPENDEX, EMBASE, BIOSIS, PAJ, WPI Data, MEDLINE

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 587 423 A (PICKER INTERNATIONAL, INC) 16 March 1994 (1994-03-16)	1,2,4, 12,13
Y	page 2, line 31 - line 36 page 3, line 27 - line 50 page 5, line 51 - line 53	10
X	US 5 576 623 A (MULLER ET AL) 19 November 1996 (1996-11-19)	1,2,4-9, 12,13
Y	column 6, line 28 - column 7, line 26	10,11
X	DE 41 39 420 A1 (KABUSHIKI KAISHA TOSHIBA, KAWASAKI, KANAGAWA, JP) 4 June 1992 (1992-06-04)	1,2,4, 12,13
	page 2, line 66 - page 3, line 21 page 5, line 10 - line 28	
	----- -/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

6 May 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

13/05/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Skalla, J

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/IB2005/050872

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 93/14414 A (OXFORD INSTRUMENTS LIMITED) 22 July 1993 (1993-07-22)	1,2,4,12,13
Y	page 13, line 18 - line 33; claims 1-3,12,13	11
X	US 5 990 680 A (MANSFIELD ET AL) 23 November 1999 (1999-11-23)	1-3,12,13
A	claims 1,12-17; figure 17b	14-17
A	US 5 548 653 A (PLA ET AL) 20 August 1996 (1996-08-20)	1,12,14-17
	claims 1-5	

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/IB2005/050872

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0587423	A	16-03-1994	US 5296810 A DE 69325486 D1 DE 69325486 T2 EP 0587423 A1 JP 3451558 B2 JP 6277193 A US 5406204 A US 5424643 A US 5349297 A	22-03-1994 05-08-1999 28-10-1999 16-03-1994 29-09-2003 04-10-1994 11-04-1995 13-06-1995 20-09-1994
US 5576623	A	19-11-1996	DE 4425997 C1 GB 2291711 A ,B US RE36881 E	25-01-1996 31-01-1996 26-09-2000
DE 4139420	A1	04-06-1992	JP 5049608 A	02-03-1993
WO 9314414	A	22-07-1993	AU 3265093 A EP 0621955 A1 WO 9314414 A1 JP 7502671 T	03-08-1993 02-11-1994 22-07-1993 23-03-1995
US 5990680	A	23-11-1999	CN 1154743 A ,C DE 69606477 D1 DE 69606477 T2 EP 0763210 A1 WO 9631785 A1 IL 117764 A JP 10501449 T	16-07-1997 09-03-2000 19-10-2000 19-03-1997 10-10-1996 31-08-2000 10-02-1998
US 5548653	A	20-08-1996	NONE	